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NOTES

Useful additions to the rapidly increasing number of modernized and translated mediaeval texts are made in Professor Martha Hale Shackford's *Legends and Satires from Mediaeval Literature* (Ginn and Co., \$1.25). The selections cover a wide range of material: Debate, Vision, Saints' Lives, Pious Tales, Allegory, Bestiary, Lapidary, Homily, Satire, Lay; and they have been judiciously made. We may question the wisdom of using a sixteenth century version of Phillis and Flora and we regret that the interesting description of a lay which prefaces the English *Sir Orfeo* in two out of three MSS. has been omitted from Professor Shackford's reprint of this poem. On the other hand she has done well to print the simple Middle English text of the *Orfeo*. A brief introduction in which the matter published is brought into general relation with the work of Chaucer and notes of a descriptive and bibliographical character contribute to the value of an uncommonly useful book. The frontispiece is a reproduction from Fra Angelico's *Last Judgment*.

The Minor Poems of Joseph Beaumont (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914, \$5.00) is a painstaking edition by Miss Eloise Robinson of a unique manuscript owned by Professor Palmer. "The manuscript contains 177 poems; of these thirty were published in the 1749 edition with large omissions, here mentioned in the textual notes." From this quotation it will be seen that Miss Robinson's volume is one of considerable importance in bringing to light poems not in the editions and in setting right the text of a number that are improperly printed there. Besides, she has written a critical and carefully documented life of the poet and a competent estimate of his poetry. The parallels to Beaumont's verses which Miss Robinson finds in contemporary poetry and to which several pages of her introduction are devoted, are interesting, however they may be interpreted in individual cases. The frontispiece of the volume is a portrait of Beaumont. We wish to congratulate the publishers upon the beautiful pages with their clear type and wide margins and indeed upon the general format of the book.

In Rudolf Fischer's *Quellen zu König Lear* (A. Marcus u. E. Webers Verlag, Bonn, 1914) we have the first of the series *Shakespeares Quellen* published under the auspices of the *Deutsche Shakespeare-Gesellschaft*, with Professor Brandl as editor-in-chief. Apart from a brief introduction to the series by the general editor, the volume contains nothing in the way of editorial comment or annotation, unless we except a schematic *übersicht* of the relations of the sources. Each one of the six "Quellen" is accompanied page by page with a German translation, in some cases the translation of Simrock revised by Fischer. It should be added that the series inaugurated by Professor Fischer's book undertakes to supply the deficiencies of the Collier-Hazlitt Shakespeare's Library.

The *College Chaucer*, (Yale University Press, New Haven, 1913, \$1.50 net), edited by Professor MacCracken, though not a complete edition, presents more of the poetry of Chaucer than can easily be read in the class-room in the course of a year. The typography of the book is incomparably better than what the complete Chaucers furnish and there is a glossary, which besides definition and etymologies supplies much information that is ordinarily to be found in notes. The appendix dealing with Pronunciation, Language, Notes on Special Usage, etc., is brief.

In his *Phonetic Spelling, A proposed universal Alphabet for the rendering of English, French, German and all other forms of speech*, (Cambridge: at the University Press, 1913), Sir Harry Johnston rep-

resents his phonetic alphabet as a combination of the best features of the work of Volney, Lepsius, Norris, Barth, Koelle, Sweet, Meinhof and the International Phonetic Association with a few original ideas of his own. Hoping that the nations of the world will soon desire to adopt a universal phonetic alphabet he lays great stress upon the practical side of his system, which uses only such symbols as could be easily employed in writing with the hand. He recommends for English that a standard pronunciation be established by an authoritative representative committee recruited from all parts of the English speaking territory. This standard pronunciation should then be spelled phonetically by means of this new alphabet.